

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An optical film composed of a thermoplastic resin film obtained by using a melt extruding machine, wherein:

said thermoplastic resin film satisfies a relation of the formula below over the whole surface of the film when an angle made by the extruding direction of the thermoplastic resin film from the melt extruding machine and a slow phase axis at each point is α , and a retardation amount at each point is R_e wherein said α and R_e are measured at 20 points at every 500 mm over 10 m in the film length direction and at 5 points at regular intervals over 490 mm in the width direction

$$[\sin^2 2\alpha] \times [\sin^2 (\pi \cdot R_e / 550)] \leq 3.4 \times 10^{-5}.$$

2. (Original) The optical film as set forth in claim 1, wherein a value of said R_e is 10 nm or less.

3. (Original) The optical film as set forth in claim 1 or 2, wherein said thermoplastic resin is an alicyclic structure containing polymer.

4. (Withdrawn) A production method of an optical film composed of a thermoplastic resin film, including a step of cooling a molten thermoplastic resin extruded from an extruding

machine by making it successively circumscribed with a first cooling drum, a second cooling drum and a third cooling drum:

wherein, when assuming that rotation speed of said third cooling drum is R_3 (m/min.), and rotation speed of said second cooling drum is R_2 (m/min.), a ratio of the R_3 and R_2 (R_3/R_2) is made to be 0.990 or more but less than 0.999 to cool said thermoplastic resin.

5. (Withdrawn) The production method of an optical film as set forth in claim 4,

wherein, when assuming a resin contact time in said first cooling drum is t_1 (sec.), a temperature when said thermoplastic resin moves away from said first cooling drum is T_{p1} (°C), and a glass transition temperature of said thermoplastic resin is T_g (°C), $t_1 \times (T_{p1} - T_g)$ (unit: sec.·deg) is made to be -50 or higher and 20 or lower to cool said thermoplastic resin.

6. (Withdrawn) The production method of an optical film as set forth in claim 4,

wherein, when assuming that rotation speed of said first cooling drum is R_1 (m/min.), a ratio of the R_2 and R_1 (R_2/R_1) is made to be 0.990 or more but less than 1.01 to cool said thermoplastic resin.

7. (Withdrawn) The production method of an optical film as set forth in claim 4,

wherein, when assuming that a temperature when said thermoplastic resin moves away from said third cooling drum is T_{p3} (°C), the T_{p3} is made to be a lower temperature than said T_g by 50 to 100°C to cool said thermoplastic resin.

8. (Withdrawn) The production method of an optical film as set forth in claim 4, wherein, when assuming that a temperature when said thermoplastic resin moves away from said second cooling drum is T_{p2} ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), the T_{p2} is made to be a lower temperature than said T_g by 0 to 60°C to cool said thermoplastic resin.

9. (Withdrawn) The production method of an optical film as set forth in claim 4, wherein, a temperature difference of said first cooling drum and said second cooling drum is made to be 20°C or less to cool said thermoplastic resin.

10. (Previously Presented) A protective film of a polarizer composed of the optical film as set forth in claim 1.

11. (Currently Amended) A polarizing film having a polarizer and a protective film as set forth ~~forth~~ in claim 10 stacked on one surface or both surfaces of the polarizer via an adhesive layer.

12. (Currently Amended) A phase difference film obtained by performing stretch processing on the optical film as set forth ~~forth~~ in claim 1.

13. (New) The optical film as set forth in claim 1, wherein a value of said Re is 2 nm or less.

14. (New) The optical film as set forth in claim 1, wherein said optical film is yet to be stretched.